THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): As earlier stated in reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question 91 answered on 04.03.2008, the licence of the academy was suspended pending investigation. After investigation it emerged that fake certificates were issued by Capt. Ashim Taxali, Chief Flight Instructor (CFI) of the academy. The CFI status of Capt. Taxali was withdrawn by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). DGCA has also been advised to ensure a strict monitoring system in the academy.

Construction/development of airports

3723. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the State Government regarding construction and expansion of airports in their respective States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Requests received for greenfield airports from various State Governments/ Union Territories are—Tamil Nadu (Sriperembudur), Maharashtra (Chakan near Pune and Sindhudurg), Sikkim (Pakyong), Nagaland (Cheitu), Karnataka (Hassan, Shimoga, Bijapur and Gulbarga), Puducherry (Karaikal), Kerala (Kannur), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar and Tawang), Andhra Pradesh (Vizag), Gujarat (Bharuch), Goa (Mopa) and Uttar Pradesh (Jewar near Noida).

Expansion of airports have been planned/initiated for the following airports: Cuddapah, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada and Warangal in Andhra Pradesh; Nagpur in Maharashtra; Mehsana in Gujarat; Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh; Raipur in Chhattisgarh; Shimla and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh; and Mysore in Karnataka.

Construction/expansion of airports is a continuous process taking into account the commercial viability, traffic potential/demands, commitment of airlines to operate through the specific airports etc.

MoU between AAI and Transparency International

3724. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Transparency International India to ensure that Rs. 2000 crore it will spending this fiscal and an additional Rs. 12000 crore in the Eleventh Plan period for building new infrastructure is well spent;

(b) whether the AAI officials will have to work as a team and effectively utilize the Integrity Pact (IP) tool to ensure clean procurement and meet the challenges ahead without compromising or diluting any procedures or guidelines issued by CVC or Government;

(c) if so, what are other main features of the MoU; and

(d) to what extent they are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Transparency International India on 15.2.2008 for implementation of Integrity Pact.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) AAI is implmenting Integrity Pact w.e.f. 1.4.2008 on contracts of Civil/ Electricial/Composite projects of value more than Rs. 50 crores and CNS/Electronics Projects, land and commercial contracts of value more than Rs. 25 crores.

Upgradation of Small Airports

3725. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade small airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of small airports selected to be upgraded, State-wise;

(d) the cost involved in the likely upgradation;

(e) whether some of the State Government have agreed to enter into an agreement with the Central Government for upgradation of the airports in their States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to upgrade some of its non-operational small airports in the country, subject to availability of land from the concerned State Governments free of cost and some other facilities.

(c) and (d) Airports upgradation works have been taken up by AAI at Mysore in Karnataka, Warrangal and Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh; Passighat, Tezu, Along, Daparizo and Zero in Arunachal Pradesh; Kailasahar and Kamalpur in Tripura; Tura in Meghalaya; Akola, Gondia and Baramati in Maharashtra; Surat in Gujarat; Jharsuguda in Orissa; Malda and Behala in West Bengal. These projects are at various stages of initiation/completion. The likely cost of these works is about Rs. 300 crores.

Airports of North Eastern States mentioned above are being funded by the North Eastern Council (NEC).

(e) and (f) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed by AAI with the concerned State Governments in respect of Mysore, Warrangal, Cuddapah and Surat airports.

Air India Express services from Hyderabad

3726. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding Air India Express services connecting Hyderabad to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait;